

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20

DRC-01 EB-11 DPW-01 SAB-01 FEA-02 /189 W

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P 200405Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORCY 9852

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANJUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
EQEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY 001

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BEIRUT ALSO PASS DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PK, XC, XF, XI
SUBJECT: ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE

REF: LAHORE 0170 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: DELEGATES TO SECOND ISLAMIC SUMMIT
CONFERENCE BEGAN GATHERING IN LAHORE FEB 18, AMID CON-
SIDERABLE CONFUSION ABOUT AIMS, AGENDA,
ATTENDANCE AND
ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM
30 MEMBER STATES MET FEB 18 TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR FOREIGN
MINISTERS MEETING ON FEB 19-20, WHICH IN TURN WILL DRAW
UP AGENDA FOR SUMMIT FEB 22-24. SUBJECTS TO
BE DISCUSSED
NOT YET CLEAR, EXCEPT FOR JERUSALEM AND "MIDDLE EAST," AND
ONLY EXCITEMENT SO FAR GENERATED HAS BEEN OVER POSSIBLE
"MINI-SUMMIT" TO DISCUSS OIL, AND POSSIBLE ATTENDANCE OF
BANGLADESH. END SUMMARY.

1. ATMOSPHERICS: DELEGATES TO ISLAMIC SUMMIT BEGAN
ARRIVING OVER WEEKEND WHILE ARMY OF LABORERS STILL FRANTICALLY
PUTTING FINISHING TOUCHES ON CITY AND CONFERENCE FACILITIES.
BECAUSE OF ELABORATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, MASS CONFUSION
IS ORDER OF DAY AND HAS ALREADY CREATED IRRITATION AMONG
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SOME DELEGATIONS. LARGE GROUP OF JOURNALISTS ARE HAMPERED
BY BOTH NORMAL GOP SECRETIVENESS AND DENIAL OF ACCESS TO
DELEGATIONS, WHO IN ANY CASE REFUSE TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE
ACTIONS OF ADVANCE PARTIES. FEW OBSERVERS EXPECT MUCH
SUBSTANCE TO EMERGE FROM FORMAL MEETINGS, BUT MANY SEEM
TO BELIEVE TANGIBLE BUSINESS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED IN
CORRIDORS. HOWEVER, LOCAL PRESS HAS BEEN WARNED BY GOP
NOT TO SPECULATE ON SUBSTANCE OF CLOSED MEETINGS, AND

SINCE PAKISTANI JOURNALISTS ARE USED TO SUCH RESTRICTIONS, THEY HAVE GENERALLY BEEN SATISFIED TO LOAF AROUND BRIEFING ROOMS AWAITING OFFICIAL HANDOUTS. WORD HAS NONETHELESS SURFACED THAT THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF "MINI SUMMIT" OF OIL PRODUCING REPS TO DISCUSS SELECTIVE PRICES AND DISTRIBUTION, AND SOME FOREIGN NEWSMEN BELIEVE EGYPTIAN AND SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL BRING IMPORTANT WORD ON MIDDLE EAST WITH THEM FROM WASHINGTON MEETINGS WITH USG. BECAUSE OF SITE OF SUMMIT, MOST LOCALS (AND US JOURNALISTS, WHO ARE MOSTLY STATIONED IN INDIA) ARE PREDOMINANTLY BREATHLESS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ATTENDANCE BY BANGLADESH. PUBLIC IN GENERAL SEEMS TO HAVE TWO NOTIONS ABOUT UTILITY OF CONFERENCE, REGARDING IT WITH CONSIDERABLE EXCITEMENT AND PRIDE AS EVIDENCE OF REAL ADVANCE IN MUSLIM UNITY, AND AT SAME TIME AS BOOST IN PRESTIGE FOR PAKISTAN. WHILE THIS MAY BE TEMPERED IN TIME IF DISAGREEMENTS OR NON-PAKISTANI BILATERAL ARGUMENTS DEVELOP, CATCHWORD OF MUSLIM UNITY MAY INDUCE CONFEREES TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP SQUABBLES PRIVATE AND PRESENT SMILING FACADE TO WORLD.

2. MEETING OF OFFICIALS: FIRST FORMAL "OFFICIALS" MEETING OF CONFERENCE STAYED BEHIND LOCKED DOORS UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT FEB 18. PRESS WAS NOT BRIEFED AS TO SUBSTANCE OF MEETING THOUGH MOST JOURNALISTS SPECULATED THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT OF SORTS WHEN MEETING LASTED SOME HOURS LONGER THAN PLANNED. IN AFTERNOON BRIEFING FEB 19, SOP INFORMATION SECRETARY NASIM AHMED TOLD PRESS THAT OFFICIALS "CONSIDERED" PROVISIONAL AGENDA, AMONG OTHER ITEMS.

3. FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE: FOREIGN MINISTERS OF 30 NATIONS MET AFTERNOON FEB 19, HAVING POSTPONED OPENING SIX HOURS, REPORTEDLY IN HOPES EGYPTIAN AND SAUDI FONMINS WOULD HAVE ARRIVED FROM WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRIMARY PURPOSE OF FONMINS MEETING IS TO APPROVE FORMAL AGENDA FOR SUMMIT, AND DECIDE UPON INVITATIONS TO NON-MEMBERS. FONMINS ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN FEB 20.

4. ATTENDANCE: THE 30 MEMBERS OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION HAVE SENT OR ARE SENDING DELEGATIONS AND SIXTEEN HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENTS ARE REPORTEDLY ATTENDING SUMMIT. CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONTEXT ARE IRAQ (NOT A MEMBER) AND KING HUSSAIN OF JORDAN, BUT SADAT, ASAD AND FAYSAL WILL ATTEND. ARABIAN END OF "GULF" IS OVERWHELMINGLY REPRESENTED BY FIVE RULERS, BUT SHAH OF IRAN CLEARLY PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THOSE HE EXPECTS TO BE MAKING OFFENSIVE, FIERY SPEECHES. LIKEWISE LEERY OF FORUM'S TIMING AND USEFULNESS ARE INDONESIA AND MOROCCO. THERE IS NO WORD ON ALGERIAN DELEGATION.

AFGHANS AND TUNISIANS ARE PRESUMED TO HAVE LOCAL, BILATERAL GRIEVANCES IN MIND IN SENDING LESS THAN SUMMIT-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES. OTHER ABSENCES AT HEAD-OF-STATE/GOVERNMENT-LEVEL OCCUR AMONG AFRICANS, WHOM NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED RESENTFUL OVER ARAB OIL PRICE SQUEEZE. NON-MEMBER GROUPS AND STATES WISHING TO ATTEND INCLUDE THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, ARAB LEAGUE, PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, DUBAI, GABON, CAMEROON, THE GAMBIA, UGANDA AND SOUTH YEMEN. OUR NEWS SOURCES REPORT THAT TENTATIVE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED TO ACCORD PALESTINE LIBERATION

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P 200405Z FEB 74

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ORGANIZATION "OFFICIAL" STATUS, WHICH WE INTERPRET TO MEAN ACCEPTANCE AS A VOTING MEMBER "STATE." GRAND MUFTI OF JERUSALEM IS COMING AND PRESS HERE IS MAKING MUCH OF HIM. QUESTION OF BANGLADESH'S MEMBERSHIP MAY BE CLIFF-HANGER.

5. AGENDA: SPECULATION IN PAK PRESS CONCERNING SUMMIT'S AGENDA REVOLVES ABOUT TWO CENTRAL ISSUES OF ISREALI WITHDRAWAL TO ITS PRE-1967 BOUNDARIES AND MUSLIM CONTROL OF JERUSALEM. ONLY ON LATTER DOES THERE APPEAR TO BE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FROM CONFERENCE MEMBERS. PURPOSE OF CO-HOSTS LAST NOVEMBER IN CALLING FOR SUMMIT WAS TO SHOW UNITED MUSLIM SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE -- TO STRENGTHEN ARAB HAND IN ANY MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT -- BUT EVIDENCE POINTS TO CONCLUSION THAT CONSENSUS ON DETAILED, PRACTICAL RESOLUTIONS WILL BE HARD TO COME BY.

6. MIDDLE EAST QUESTION: LAHORE CONFERENCE IS STARTING WITH NO AGREEMENT AMONG CONFEREES EITHER ON OVERALL APPROACH OR ON SPECIFICS. MOST CONFEREES SUPPORT SETTLEMENT, BUT LIBYA DOES NOT, AND QADHAFI IS EXPECTED TO BE SPOKESMAN FOR OPPOSITION TO NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT. OTHER ISSUES RAISED IN CORRIDOR GOSSIP ACCORDING NEWS SOURCES ARE: QUESTION

OF HIGH OIL PRICES WHICH ARE CRIPPLING TO NON-PRODUCING
STATES; PROPOSALS FOR ARAB BANK AND ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTERS
WHICH HAVE NOT YET GOTTEN OFF GROUND; ATTENDANCE AT SUMMIT
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OF OBSERVER GROUPS AND NEW MEMBERS; MUSLIM MINORITIES IN
NON-MUSLIM STATES (E.G., PHILIPPINES); AND, OF COURSE, BOGEY
OF BILATERAL AND LOCAL ISSUES. FORMAL AGENDA -- ALSO
ATTENDANCE AND PROCEDURES -- WILL BE DECIDED BY TWO-THIRDS
VOTE AT FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE. IT IS LIKELY THAT
RESOLUTIONS WILL NOT BE PROPOSED UNLESS CONSENSUS APPEARS
POSSIBLE AND PERFORMANCE OF PRELIMINARY OFFICIALS' MEETING
FORECASTS THAT "ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY" MAY BE PURCHASED ONLY WITH
COIN OF VAGUE, HORTATORY CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MOSLEMS, MEETING AGENDA, SUMMIT MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAHORE00258
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740222/aaaaaуда.tel
Line Count: 296
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LAHORE 0170 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, PK, XC, XF, XI, ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005